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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,404	10/28/2003	Richard Guy Gutman	440824/PALL	9221

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EXAMINER

SAVAGE, MATTHEW O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1724

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/694,404

Applicant(s)

GUTMAN ET AL

Examiner

Matthew O. Savage

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09462,765.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiavo et al in view of the "Filter Reference Guide" and the "Pall Selection Guide FLUORODYNE FILTERS (P GRADE)".

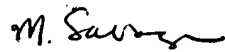
With respect to claim 1, Schiavo et al disclose discloses a plastics housing 30, 50 (see FIG. 1 and lines 51-58 of col. 1) providing an inlet port 32 and an outlet port 34, the material of the housing being such that the assembly can be sterilized by subjecting the interior of the housing to steam under pressure while the exterior of the housing is at atmospheric pressure without damaging the housing since it is capable of operating at a temperature of 190 degrees Celsius and a pressure of 5 bars, a filter element 20 held in the housing, the filter element having filter medium including a central passage extending between first and second ends of the filter medium (see FIG. 2), an end 22 of the filter element providing a fluid connection between the central passage and the port 34. Schiavo et al fail to specify the filter media as being formed of a water wettable material, the first end of the filter medium being embedded in a first end cap of a plastics material at a first joint to close the passage and the second end of the filter medium being embedded in a second end cap of a plastics material at a second joint, the characteristics of the filter medium at the joints not being materially changed, and the first and second end caps forming respective water-wettable joints with the filter

medium. The Filter Reference Guide and the Pall Selection Guide together suggest filter media as being formed of a water wettable material (e.g., PVDF, see the second page of the Filter Reference Guide), the first end of the filter medium being embedded (e.g., via melt sealing) in a first end cap of a plastics material (e.g., PP) at a first joint to close the passage and the second end of the filter medium being embedded in a second end cap of a plastics material at a second joint, the characteristics of the filter medium at the joints not being materially changed and the first and second end caps and forming respective water-wettable joints with the filter medium since the filter element is formed of the same materials and in the same manner as the filter element disclosed by applicant on pages 10-11 of the instant specification. The Pall Selection Guide suggests that such a filter element provides superior bacteria and particle removal efficiency in demanding environments. It would have been obvious to have modified the filter of Schiavo et al so as to have included the filter element as suggested by the "Filter Reference Guide" and the "Pall Selection Guide" in order to provide a filter medium capable of providing superior bacteria and particle removal efficiency in demanding environments.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O. Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

mos
May 27, 2005